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Examiner: M. Ton

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NOTIFICATION OF RELATED APPLICATION

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Washington, DC 20231

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.99, Applicant submits herewith a Form PTO-1449 listing references known to Applicant and requests that these references be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the above identified application. Copies of the references listed are submitted herewith in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a).

Further to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 8, 1999, Applicants submit herewith U.S. Patent 3,896,430 which is in the family of JP 49-077537.

The Examiner's attention is particularly directed to JP 55-32026 and JP 01-156725 which were submitted on April 8, 1999 and have been relied upon by the Examiner in U.S. Application Serial No. 90/005,691. The Examiner's attention is directed to this application and a copy of the specification, claims as originally filed, and pending claims of U.S. Application Serial No. 90/005,691 are submitted herewith.

U.S. Patent 4,818,075 is in the family of JP 63-182627.

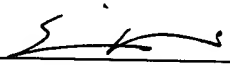
U.S. Patent 5,166,816 and EP 372821 are in the family of JP 02-157827.

Applicants note that U.S. Patent 6,437,367 and U.S. Patent 6,436,815 issued on August 20, 2002 and share the same priority application as the subject application.

A check in the amount of \$180 is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this filing which may be required now, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2280.

Respectfully submitted,



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